
If you believe you are eligible to vote and encounter difficulty registering, please contact the Kentucky State Board of Elections:

State Board of Elections
140 Walnut Street
Frankfort, KY 40601
(502) 573-7100 (voice)
(502) 573-4369 (fax)
www.sos.state.ky.us/elecdiv.htm

If the Kentucky State Board of Elections is unable to help you, or to report a problem, contact:

U.S. Department of Justice, Civil Rights Division
950 Pennsylvania Avenue, NW
Voting Section, Rm. 7254 - NWB
Washington, D.C. 20530
(202) 307-2767 (voice)
(800) 253-3931 (toll-free)
(202) 307-3961 (fax)
www.usdoj.gov/crt

This pamphlet is provided for informational purposes only, as an aid to further inquiry. The laws in many states are revised frequently, and may have changed since this pamphlet was issued. It is your responsibility to determine whether you are lawfully eligible to vote, and criminal penalties can result from voting when ineligible or making false statements on a registration form.

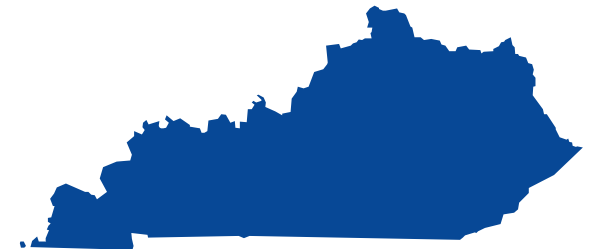
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U.S. Department of Justice

Civil Rights Division



Restoring Your Right to Vote



KENTUCKY

The right to vote is an important civil right in a democracy as well as a civic responsibility, and yet many persons who have been convicted of a crime do not know whether they are eligible to vote. For both federal and state elections, the right to vote is controlled by the law of the state in which you live. Some states restrict the right to vote for persons who have been convicted of a crime. This pamphlet is intended to help you determine whether you are eligible to vote in the state in which you live, and if so, what steps you must take to be permitted to vote.

What law governs whether my felony conviction limits my right to vote?

The impact of a criminal conviction on the right to vote varies widely from state to state. Whether you can vote after being convicted of a crime is determined by the state in which you live, not the state in which you were convicted.

Can I vote while I'm incarcerated in Kentucky?

If you are a resident of Kentucky, you cannot vote in Kentucky elections while you are incarcerated as a result of a felony conviction. If you are a resident of another state who is temporarily incarcerated in Kentucky, you may be able to vote by absentee ballot in your home state. You need to consult the law of your home state regarding both criminal convictions and absentee ballots to see if this is a possibility.

I have been released from incarceration. How do I restore my right to vote?

If you were convicted of a felony in Kentucky, then you must obtain a pardon from the Governor in order to regain your right to vote. To apply, contact:

Governor of Kentucky
700 Capitol Avenue
Frankfort, KY 40601
(502) 564-2611 (voice)
(502) 564-2517 (fax)

What if my conviction was for a federal crime or a crime in another state?

A felony conviction makes you ineligible to vote in Kentucky, no matter where you were convicted, and you must have your rights restored before you will be permitted to vote. The Governor of Kentucky cannot grant you a full pardon on behalf of the federal government or that of another state, but he can grant you a partial pardon in Kentucky in order to restore your Kentucky voting rights.

If you wish to seek a full pardon for a conviction from another state, you should contact the Governor's office of that state for information on their procedures. If you were convicted of a federal crime, you may contact:

Office of Pardon Attorney
United States Department of Justice
500 First Street, N.W., 4th floor
Washington, D.C. 20530

What happens if I move to another state?

If you move to another state, your right to vote will be controlled by the laws of that state.

What are Kentucky's other voter registration requirements?

To vote in Kentucky, you must meet the following additional requirements:

- U.S. citizen
- resident of Kentucky
- resident of the county for at least 28 days prior to the election date
- at least 18 years old on or before the date of the next general election
- not claim the right to vote anywhere else
- not currently be judged "mentally incompetent" by a court

When do I need to register to vote?

Registration is available year-round in Kentucky. However, in order to participate in an election, your registration application generally must be received at least 28 days before that election.

Where do I go to register?

Registration is available at many places in Kentucky, including:

- County Clerk's office
- Driver's License office, if you are applying for or renewing your driver's license
- K-TAP, Food Stamp, Medicaid, WIC, and state funded offices serving those with disabilities, if you are a client of these Public Assistance offices
- Armed Forces Recruitment Offices, if you are a prospective member of the armed forces
- High Schools, if you are a student or work at the school
- State Board of Elections office